

REMARKS

This patent application presently includes claims 1-7, all of which stand rejected. The claims are amended to define the Applicants' invention more precisely, and all rejections are respectfully conversed.

Claims 1-4 were rejected as obvious over Younan. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, it is noted that this rejection is actually made over Younan in view of Rubin or JP 11-195803. As is clear from paragraph 6 at page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner requires these two references in addition to Younan in order to make the rejection. However, the Examiner is combining these two references with Younan for the first time upon final rejection. Accordingly, a final rejection at this time is improper, and the finality of the rejection should be withdrawn. The Applicants are therefore entitled to amend claims 1-5 as a matter of right.

As pointed out in the last amendment, Younan does not disclose that a plurality of modules of different size and having an equal output voltage be connected in parallel. The examiner admits that Younan does not disclose that different size modules should have the same output voltage. For this he cites JP 11-195803. However, the Japanese reference teaches nothing of the sort, all it teaches is that different modules should have "almost the same current characteristics". There is not the slightest suggestion regarding output voltage or that

different modules should have the same output voltage, nor that it would be of any benefit. Accordingly, combining the Japanese reference with Younan results in no better a rejection than Younan alone.

Moreover, the Applicants have now emphasized the difference over Younan by adding to claim 1 the step of connecting positive and negative output lines of each solar cell module to positive and negative cables. Accordingly, claim 1 clearly distinguishes over Younan, any of the other references, or any combination thereof. Claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowed based upon their dependence from an allowable claim.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected as obvious over Younan in view of the admissions of prior art. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 has been amended to recite that the covered member is mounted on the supporting member and the wiring member is sealed in a resin between the supporting member and the covered member. Similarly, claim 7 has been amended to recite that the wiring member is sealed in a resin between the metal base and the base section. These features are not taught or suggested by Younan, even when combined with any prior art admissions.

Regarding claim 6, Younan merely covers the exposed end area of the solar cell (col. 10, lines 6-8), and does not cover the wiring member which

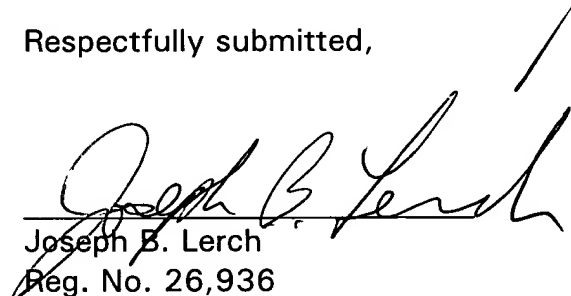
connects to sub-modules electrically. Moreover, Younan does not disclose that the cover 40 covers the wiring member (see fig. 3).

Regarding claim 7, Younan merely discloses a common wiring member for connecting modules. Thus, even if the wiring member of Younan were combined with the conventional construction shown in fig. 3 and fig. 4 of the present application, one would not arrive at the concept of providing a wiring member between the metal base and the base section, much less one sealed in a resin therebetween.

Accordingly, claim 6 and 7 are believed to be allowable.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place this patent application in condition for allowance. It is therefore earnestly requested that the present amendment be entered, note this application as a whole, receive favorable reconsideration and that all of the claims be allowed as presently constituted. Should there remain any unanswered questions, the examiner is requested to call the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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